

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheets" of drawings include changes to Figures 4, 5, and 6. The attached "Replacement Sheets," which include Figures 4, 5, and 6, replace the original sheets including Figures 4, 5, and 6.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-51 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 18, and 36-48 have been amended. Claims 49-51 have been added as new. Support for the foregoing amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings, and claims as originally filed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. Applicant has attached revised drawings for the Examiner's approval. In the "Replacement Sheets", reference numerals are added to the drawings.

SPECIFICATION

The specification stands objected to for certain informalities. Applicants have amended the specification according to the Examiner's suggestions. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 42 is objected to because of certain informalities. Applicant has amended claim 42 to address the Examiner's objections. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 36-41 and 43-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended the claims to address this rejection. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Blackett et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,944,555). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 18 is amended to correct a typographical error. Claim 18 is directed to an appliance control interface and a node element having a global port. Claim 18 calls for “the node element being configured to propagate said appliance control interface through said global port thereby allowing access to said data store of appliance control data from the electric power network.” Applicant submits that Blackett fails to anticipate the above limitations.

Blackett at best states that

the IED may also be capable of receiving data from or controlling its associated load. Depending on the type of IED and the type of load it may be associated with, the IED implements a power management function such as measuring power consumption, controlling power distribution such as a relay function, monitoring power quality, measuring power parameters such as phasor components, voltage or current, controlling power generation facilities, or combinations thereof. For functions which produce data or other results, the IED can push the data onto the network to another IED or back end server, automatically or event driven, (discussed in more detail below) or the IED can wait for a polling

communication which requests that the data be transmitted to the requester.

Blackett, col. 6, Ins. 9-23. In other words, Blackett at best appears to show that the IED may control some power functions of the load. Similarly, at col. 6, Ins. 38-54, Blackett at best appears to show that the IEDS and other power management software/hardware may communicate with each other. Blackett, however, does not appear to show that the IED can make a control interface of an appliance and control data of the appliance available to the electric power network. In Blackett, other appliances in the electric power network cannot control the appliance and access control data of the appliance through the IEDs.

Claim 35 calls for “providing each of the devices with at least one globally available local interface, wherein the globally available local interface extracts interaction data from the links established at the global port or the inward port and processes the interaction data to identify source and destination devices corresponding to the established links ..., wherein the globally available local interface universally formats at least a portion of the interaction data associated with the link established at the inward port for transmission to at least one of the second device and the third device.” In other words, the plurality of devices of claim 35 make the interaction data globally available, facilitate interactions between source and destination devices, and universally format the interaction data.

In contrast, as argued above, Blackett at best appears to show that the IEDs may communicate with each other. Blackett, however, does not appear to show that the IEDs make the universally format data transmitted between devices available in the power network via the IEDs.

Claim 50 is new and depends from claim 35. Claim 50 further calls for that “the source and destination devices are not power management components of the utility power network” and that “the globally available local interface universally formats a) data and commands from the source device and complying with a first protocol and b) data and commands from the destination device and complying with a second protocol.”

Blackett, however, does not appear to show that source and destination devices which are other than the power management function components in the power network may communicate with each other through IEDs or that the IEDs further universally format data and commands complying with different protocols.

Claim 42, similar to claim 35, calls for “at least one globally available local interface coupled to the global port and the inward port, wherein the globally available local interface extracts interaction data from the links established at the global port or the inward port and processes the interaction data to identify source and destination devices corresponding to the established links ..., wherein the globally available local interface universally formats at least a portion of the interaction data associated with the link established at the inward port for transmission to at least one of the second device and the third device.”

Claim 50 is new and depends from claim 35. Claim 50 further calls for “the source and destination devices are not power management components of the utility power network, wherein the globally available local interface universally formats a) data and commands from the source device and complying with a first protocol and b) data and commands from the destination device and complying with a second protocol.”

Applicant has amended claims 1 to more clearly point out the claimed subject matter. Claim 1 calls for that “the node element is operable to expose an existing communication interface that is for communicating data with and that is of a device in the electric power network to another device in the electric power network” and that “the node element is operable to expose an existing control interface that is for controlling at least one operational function of and this is of a device in the electric power network to another device in the electric power network.” Applicant submits that Blackett fails to anticipate the above limitations.

In contrast, Blackett at best appears to show that IEDs and other power management software/hardware employ their own interfaces for communication with each other. Blackett, however, does not appear to show that the IEDs can make existing control and communication interfaces of a device in the power network available to another device in the power network. Functions of the existing control interface of a device such as a HVAC system in the power network cannot be invoked through an IED.

Claim 49 is new and depends from claim 1. Claims 49 further defines that the control interface of a HVAC system or a domestic hot water heater is made available through a node element. In contrast, Blackett at best appears to show that the IEDs or other power management components may control each other. Blackett, however, does not appear to show that the control interface of a HVAC system is made available by one IED to other IEDs.

Applicant has amended Claim 5 to more clearly point out the claimed subject matter. Claim 5 calls for that "the aggregation information provides knowledge of faults in the electric power network" and that "the node element is reconfigured for supporting at least one of the three planes of interaction based on the knowledge." In contrast, Blackett does not appear to show that an IED locally has fault information regarding the power network and can reconfigure the interactions in the power network based on the fault information.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits claims 1-51 define over the art cited by the Examiner.

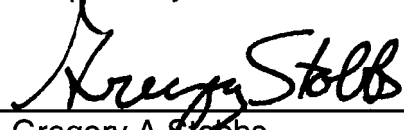
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

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Respectfully submitted,

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